

pharmacies, I suspect, from the health care provider, the insurance industry is so that the costs of various prescriptions are judged to be less than what they might be at a neighborhood pharmacy, a discount pharmacy, whatever they might be?

SENATOR WESELY: That's correct.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Well, given that then, I have really some problems with 718. You know, unless I don't understand the business of pharmacists, part of what they do is certainly dispense the medications as per the prescriptions. Unless I'm wrong, I think we also place upon them some responsibility for explaining to the person in need of a prescription the possible side effects, how to use it. There are people, for an example, that have a difficult time when they're on...especially when they're on multiple prescriptions of determining whether they have, in fact, taken their medication that day, whether they've taken the right amount, and we provided for them, I think probably voluntarily systems which prepackage for each day for a period of time the medication that's needed each day. I think, given the services, other than price, other than price, that are provided by resident pharmacists, whether that pharmacist owns his own store in Ainsworth, or whether that pharmacist is employed by one of our major local discount pharmacies, that there is a service in there that we also need to be careful that we're not taking away. I don't feel that it's a great burden. In the event that a person wants to utilize the service of a mail order pharmacy and that their health care provider authorizes that, that that mail order pharmacy ought to be treated in the same way that a resident pharmacist would be. I find it a little difficult to swallow that, simply because we can buy at a cheaper place someplace else for the product alone, that we should grant that exception from copays, because the copays certainly would make the mail order pharmacy prices somewhat more comparable to the local pharmacist who is required to provide, by their professional standing, a number of other services. So I think I'm going to have to oppose, at this time, Senator Wesely's amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, when I first heard of the Wesely amendment and the thought that it would bring some kind of a compromise to the bill, my reaction was that my